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COPS Grant Recipients Announced

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

In July 2007, the Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) submitted a statewide grant application on behalf of Interoperability Montana (IM) Project for communications equipment to support law enforcement and other critical public safety units through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. In September 2007, PSSB was awarded approximately $6 million to support technology purchases for the IM Project. The grant money requires a 25% match. All subscriber unit requests were for mobile and portable trunked radios and accessories.

PSSB, on behalf of the IMPD, is pleased to announce the recipients of Phase 1 COPS grant funds and the number of subscriber units each of the 34 jurisdictions will be receiving—assuming that all grant and matching money requirements are met—as follows:

Anaconda - Deer Lodge Law Enforcement (Enfor.)	16	Lincoln County Sheriff	25
Belgrade Police Dept. (PD)	28	Madison County	10
Blackfeet Trial Law	30	Manhattan PD	8
Blaine County Sheriff	10	Meagher County Sheriff	8
Butte-Silver Bow Law	20	MSU Police	14
Cascade County Sheriff	57	Park County Sheriff / Livingston PD	23
Choteau County Sheriff	10	Pondera County	2
Daniels County Sheriff	3	Pondera County EMS	8
Fergus County EMS	6	Poplar PD	10
Fergus County Sheriff	18	Richland County Sheriff	13
Gallatin County Sheriff	98	Roosevelt County Sheriff	10
Glacier County Sheriff	32	Sheridan County Sheriff	6
Glasgow PD	3	Three Forks Marshall	7
Granite County Law Enfor.	3	Toole County Sheriff	38
Havre PD	14	Troy PD	4
Hill County Sheriff	8	Valley County Sheriff	1
Libby Police Dept. (PD)	9	Wolf Point PD	15

In June, the IM Finance Committee members reviewed requests for COPS Grant subscriber units and made Phase 1 expenditure recommendations. The IM Project Directors (IMPD) approved the distribution plan on July 15. A number of other jurisdictions are slated for Phase 2 funding of subscriber units from COPS or other funding sources when monies become available.

In addition to subscriber units, the grant also will fund mobile data system modifications, mobile data units and VHF trunking sites. PSSB's goal in acquiring this grant for the IM Project was to provide valuable technology assets that will complement other work being completed through federal grants and State of Montana funding.

The COPS grant was established in 1994 through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act to assist law enforcement agencies in enhancing public safety through the implementation of community policing strategies in jurisdictions of all sizes across the country. COPS provides funding to allow professionals to acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime fighting technology and to train personnel to use it. Since 1994, COPS has provided funding to more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies.

If you have any questions regarding Montana's COPS grant, please contact Scott Bradford in the PSSB office at sbradford@mt.gov.

Please Note: The Sept. 22 Fleet Mapping Work Session in Great Falls has been cancelled.

It will be re-scheduled before the end of the year. We'll keep you informed when more information is available. Thanks.

IM Website Update

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

A behind-the-scenes change has taken place on the Interoperability Montana website located at http://interop.mt.gov. We have switched to a new software program for updating the web pages, and we need your help.

Despite our best efforts to ensure a smooth transition, there may be a few broken links, and we'd like to know about them. Please take a moment to explore the website. If you notice that something doesn't work correctly, please send an e-mail to espooner@mt.gov or ccastle@mt.gov. Thanks in advance for your help!

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Canada's Second National Voice Interoperability Workshop

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The "Moving Public Safety Voice Interoperability Forward" forum will be held Dec. 7-10 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto, ON. The event is being co-presented by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada, Canadian Police Research Centre, and the Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group (NPSTC North).

Registration is $375 plus tax. Representatives from Montana and other border states are invited to attend. The first workshop of this kind took place last March in Ottawa.

The Second Canadian Voice Interoperability Workshop aims to again bring together a broad base of public safety and emergency management interoperability practitioners to develop a mutual understanding of key voice interoperability issues facing today's public safety sector.

With a focus on information exchange, topic-specific discussion, and interactive break-outs, this second national workshop will promote the transfer of best practices and support development of a unified approach to public safety interoperability across the country and between nations. Speakers from Canada, the United States and Israel will be presenting. Approximately 200 delegates are expected to attend. They will come away with real-world insights, practical knowledge, and numerous tools that can be put to work immediately.

A block of rooms is being held until Nov. 7. The CACP-CITIG Conference Rate is $185 plus tax. Call (800) 663-7229 or (800) 441-1414 for hotel reservations. Conference registrations must be made in advance online at www.cacp.ca. For those without Internet access, please call (613) 233-1106 for further assistance.

SIEC to Use METNET Teleconferencing

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

For the first time, the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC) will hold its meeting using the interactive video network called METNET, the Montana Educational Telecommunications Network. This resource was established in 1992 for state and other public agencies to provide two-way interactive compressed digital video facilities. It supports interactive video classes, training, hearings and interactive conferences between and among METNET sites, and with national or international locations. It is intended to reduce travel expenses and time for public agencies in the state.

METNET has 13 general access video conference suites (classrooms or smaller venues) in major communities across the state. A list of sites is available at http://itsd.mt.gov/techmt/metnet/locations.asp. We encourage you to participate in the upcoming SIEC meeting that will take place on Wed., Sept. 10 from 10:00 am to noon.

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 8
  IM Finance Committee
  Helena ● 9:00 am - Noon
  Anderson & ZurMuehlen ● 828 Great Northern Blvd.
Sept. 8
  IM Governance Committee
  Helena ● Noon - 5:00 pm
  DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.
Sept. 9
  IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
  Helena ● 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
  State Capitol, Room 152
Sept. 10
  Statewide Interoperability Executive Council (SIEC)
  Helena ● 10:00 am - noon
  Please Note New Location:
    Old Livestock Bldg., Room 105
    1310 E. Lockey
  METNET Teleconferencing Available
Sept. 10
  Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)
  Great Falls ● 10:00 am
  Courthouse Annex, 325 2nd Ave North, Conference
    Room 6
Sept. 11
  Northern Tier (NTIP)
  Teleconference ● 9:00 am
Sept. 16
  Western Consortium (WICC)
  Missoula ● 10:00 am ● Missoula County Courthouse
  200 W. Broadway (basement)
Sept. 17
  South Central Consortium (SCMIC)
  Ennis ● 10:00 am ● First Madison Valley Bank, 213 E Main
Sept. 18
  I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
  Butte ● 10:00 am ● Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

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